

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership Meeting Minutes
Department of Environmental Management, 251 Causeway, Atrium, Boston,
October 8, 2002, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Claudia Smith-Reid and Edith Andrews, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Captain Dan May, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority; Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston, Office of Environmental Affairs; Secretary Bob Durand, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), representing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Samantha Overton Bussell, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

Secretary Durand, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from September 17, 2002

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of September 17, 2002. **The motion was approved.**

Opening Comments

Secretary Durand announced that Duke Energy sent the following checks as part of the gas pipeline project mitigation settlement: \$5.3m to Island Alliance for Peddocks Island infrastructure and improvements; \$1.5m to the Office of Coastal Zone Management for a mapping project; \$1m to DEM Conservation Trust in support of the South Essex Ocean Sanctuary; \$100k to UMASS Lowell to support a comprehensive environmental monitoring program; \$30k to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to support a comprehensive GIS-based map of the resources of the Quincy coastline.

Kathy Abbott gave a short background on the pipeline project. She read the language of the mitigation agreement that concerned the Partnership in relation to the park which follows: "In partial compensation for the interference with public rights in tidelands, the Licensee shall provide \$5.3 million in funding for infrastructure and other improvements to support public access to, and recreational use of, Peddocks Island within the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area. Design and construction of said improvements will be managed and implemented by the Island Alliance, on behalf of, and subject to, the approval and direction of, the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership (established by Section 1029 of P.L. 104-333). Improvements to be funded under this Special Condition shall include but not be limited to: 1) water, sewer, and electrical infrastructure; 2) rehabilitation of the old guard house as a visitors center and base of island operations; and 3) development and installation of interpretive exhibits."

Samantha Overton Bussell made a motion that the Partnership endorse the Island Alliance to move on behalf of the Partnership and act as the Partnership's agent on the Peddocks project as described by the language in the mitigation agreement (above). **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Maynard Goldman gave thanks to the Secretary for his extraordinary dedication in helping with this process. Maynard challenged the Partners to work within their systems to leverage more federal, state or private funds from this initial investment.

Water Resources Scoping Report

Bruce Jacobson reminded the group that, in December 2000, the Partnership adopted six 5-year initiatives as the beginnings of a strategic plan. He then listed several park projects that were based on these initiatives, which showed progress in each of the major goal areas. Progress in the natural resource inventory and monitoring initiative has been substantial, which he summarized. The progress included a draft Water Resources Scoping report which was presented to the Partnership for internal review. The purpose of the report is to identify and understand water-related issues relevant to the management of the national park area. He said that the report provides a summary of the enormous amount of information currently available on water resource issues. The report provides valuable direction for the Partnership, while keeping in mind that the park boundaries do not include the waters of Boston Harbor.

The draft was prepared by Mark Flora, NPS Water Resources Division, based on an issues identification workshop and field trips in 2002 that involved the NPS; US Geological Survey; US Coast Guard; EOE; Coastal Zone Management; DEM; Advisory Council; MDC; TIOBEC, and TTOR; plus numerous other agencies. Bruce highlighted several recommendations:

- ◆ endorse MWRA harbor-wide water quality monitoring program
- ◆ encourage shoreline erosion monitoring and research
- ◆ support implementation of *Intertidal Overview and Assessment* study recommendations
- ◆ continue MDC seasonal recreational water quality monitoring protocols for public beaches on islands
- ◆ conduct environmental audits
- ◆ incorporate park information into oil spill contingency planning
- ◆ evaluate impacts of seawalls and rip-rap areas

Bruce asked that the Partnership agencies respond with comments on the draft by November 30, 2002. He also requested the names of others who should review the draft report on behalf of the Partners.

Youth Program

George introduced Frank Middleton, National Park Service Northeast Region Youth Program Coordinator, who was very involved with the youth programs on the islands the last few years.

Frank gave a presentation about the youth programs that involved the islands. He said that the program has grown incredibly in the past three years. The summer program of youth working on backlogged maintenance projects grew to over 80 participants this year. This work experience was also tied closely to career exploration. This year, the program focused even more heavily on professional development toward environmental careers. The overall goal is to reach a diverse group of young people, to provide them with a valuable learning experience and to facilitate a connection with the environment and environmental careers.

This year, Island Alliance raised money for a winter program that provided planning for the effort. A core group of young people was formed to plan activities and experiences for the

larger group. Frank stated that the Partnership was an incredible resource because of the variety of agencies and different types of career exposures it could offer. He asked the Partners for contacts to help in planning experiences for the youth next year. The Partners discussed the importance of involving youth at an early age to get them invested in the environment and parks. They recognized that it is a long-term effort that will only benefit the agencies. They were very supportive of the program.

Spectacle Island Project

George Price gave an update on the irrigation pipe project on Spectacle Island. The pipe, no longer needed on the island, was removed and transported by volunteers to an immigrant community farm in Dracut. Logistics were incredibly daunting but accomplished with the help of Partner agencies, many volunteers and other donations. A volunteer of the Island Alliance, Bill Green, spearheaded the effort. The group gave thanks to Bill for his extraordinary efforts.

Advisory Council

Greg Ketchen, Advisory Council Chair, announced that the council received a grant to develop a plan for a public outreach program. A subgroup of the council and Partnership members will begin the planning process in November. The subgroup will report to the council as the planning progresses. Once a plan for outreach is developed, it is expected that there will be additional funding requests placed to fund the plan.

Greg announced that the next meeting will be held on December 4, from 4:00-6:00 at the New England Aquarium.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

New Business

Kathy Abbott reminded all that the Island Alliance's annual dinner is fast approaching and will be held on October 29. She said that there are still tables available for purchase. She reminded all that Partners and Alternates need to RSVP to Laurie at 617-223-8040 if they will be attending and using their complimentary seat. She said that they continue to work on getting seats donated for other staff members. If you would like to put your name on a waiting list for donated seats, contact Laurie.

George reported that a trip to Washington, DC to brief the congressional staff was scheduled for November 7.

Bruce announced that the Planning committee meeting was moved to November 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.